

LCGCC Recommendations submitted by DENR - February 5, 2010



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Dee Freeman
Secretary

To: The Honorable Pricey Harrison,
Co-chair, Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change
Mr. John L.W. Garrou
Co-chair, Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change

From: David Knight, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources
Robin Smith, Assistant Secretary for Environment

Date: February 5, 2010

Re: Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change Final Report

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Thank you for allowing the Department to submit some brief recommendations as your Commission works to finalize its report to the General Assembly. Since the formation of the Legislative Global Climate Change Commission (LGCCC), the Department has worked cooperatively with your Commission, including coordinating the work of the LGCCC and the efforts of the Climate Action Plan Advisory Group (CAPAG).

Recently the Department has developed a climate change initiative, which incorporates both mitigation and adaptation strategies. Secretary Freeman has formalized the Department's commitment to this initiative by including it in the Department's new Strategic Plan. The climate change initiative will be supported by specific actions and strategies throughout our divisions and programs. The Strategic Plan also identifies your Commission as a critical partner in the work needed to address climate change in North Carolina in a comprehensive manner.

It is in this spirit that we offer the following recommendations:

Commission on Climate Change

- The General Assembly should create a permanent legislative commission on climate change that could develop and propose legislation related to climate change as needed and also provide oversight and support for state agency activity in response to climate change – similar to the role currently played by the Environmental Review Commission with respect to environmental issues. The work of this Commission could be guided by

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an informal advisory group comprised of scientists, business representatives, environmental advocates, and local government officials.

CAPAG Recommendations

- While some of the CAPAG recommendations have already been implemented through executive agency action, DENR encourages the Commission to identify recommendations requiring legislative action in the final report. Some recommendations received unanimous support from a wide array of interested stakeholders. One way to make progress on climate change issues would be to focus the attention of the legislature on those consensus recommendations. Our staff in the Division of Air Quality would be happy to work with you and your Commission staff to identify the consensus recommendations developed over the course of the Commission's work.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these brief comments. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.